

Prime Minister Menachem Begin strikes a reflective pose during the plenum discussion in the Knesset yesterday. (Elihu Harari)

'Business as usual' schedule for Begin

By DAVID LANDAU
Post Diplomatic Correspondent

Intense speculation continued yesterday in political circles over Prime Minister Menachem Begin's last-minute cancellation of next week's scheduled visit to Washington for undisclosed "personal reasons."

Observers recalled Begin's oft-stated desire to retire at the age of 70, and noted that his 70th birthday is today, according to the Hebrew calendar. (August 16 by the Gregorian calendar).

The prime minister himself conducted a brisk "business as usual" schedule, chairing a special cabinet session in the morning and then attending the Knesset, where he circulated and socialized in the members' dining room.

Observers advancing the theory that Begin is preparing to step down cited yesterday's cabinet session on the Lebanon redeployment as possible corroboration. After long weeks of deliberations, the premier steered through the cabinet a unanimous approval of the IDF redeployment plan — as though he sought, on the eve of his departure, to ensure at least a start on Israel's extrication from the Lebanon entanglement.

These same observers were not impressed by denials emanating from the premier's close circle of aides. If he were planning a dramatic weekend resignation, they reasoned, his aides would be duty-bound to deny it until Begin is ready to reveal it. Conceivably, too, the aides themselves had not been taken into the premier's confidence — just as the top ministers were reportedly not told in advance of his decision to postpone his Washington trip.

Within the cabinet and the coalition there was a discernible closing of ranks around the premier as the day wore on. In the early morning, the news media quoted unnamed ministers who expressed concern over the depression that was ob-

Huge blast rocks Beirut

BEIRUT (Reuters). — A huge explosion rocked the luxurious Sumerland Beach Hotel and swimming pool complex last night, killing at least three people and probably many more, according to local radio stations and eyewitnesses.

The Christian Phalangist radio said three people were killed and seven wounded.

Eyewitnesses said the blast devastated the surrounding area in the south of mainly Moslem West Beirut, and casualties appeared to be high.

Sumerland is West Beirut's best known hotel and swimming club, frequented by the city's wealthiest Moslems as well as by Christians from East Beirut and elsewhere.

Druse shell East Beirut

BEIRUT (AP). — Druse gunners shelled Christian East Beirut yesterday, killing at least three people and wounding 10 others.

The mid-morning barrage touched off fires in residential neighbourhoods. Fire engines and civil defence units rushed to the stricken areas in response to appeals blared at intervals by all Beirut radio stations.

The Voice of Lebanon radio station of President Amin Jemayel's right-wing Christian Phalange Party charged that the bombardment came from Druse and Syrian artillery positions in the upper Metn mountains in central Lebanon.

The state radio confirmed the shelling and the casualties but made no reference to the Syrians. It broadcast hospitals' appeals for blood donations and said the victims were all pedestrians and motorists.

Civil defence chief Nazib Chamoun said that one shell exploded near the Lebanese Foreign Ministry in East Beirut's Sarakah neighbourhood, where two people were killed.

He said three cars were burned by the shell, but there was no damage or casualties in the Foreign Ministry building itself.

The bombardment at 9:15 a.m. shattered a 10-hour cease-fire that had halted the latest round of sectarian clashes between Christian and Druse militiamen in the central mountains overlooking the capital.

Grunzweig detectives uncover 'criminal gang'

By ROBERT ROSENBERG
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The special police team investigating the grenade attack that killed Peace Now demonstrator Emil Grunzweig has uncovered what it alleges to be a "criminal underground" that plotted attacks on politicians and institutions.

But police sources said that there is no hard evidence linking the group directly to the grenade killing.

The police are expected to bring documents and other evidence today to Magistrate's Court Judge Miriam Naor concerning involvement in the underground by Eliezer Abargil, 33. The police arrested him on Monday on suspicion of illegal possession of weapons, but are not yet linking him directly to the grenade attack on February 10 that killed Grunzweig outside the Prime Minister's Office. Abargil has been in and out of jail in the past, mostly on charges involving violence. He has an alibi for his whereabouts on that day.

Naor remanded Abargil into custody for one day, complaining that the police did not bring all the relevant documents in the case to her courtroom yesterday. With the arrival of those documents today, a longer remand is likely.

Lebanon criticizes partial pullback

WASHINGTON. — Lebanese President Amin Jemayel last night rejected any partial withdrawal by foreign forces in Lebanon, saying that such a pullout would lead to "the de facto partition of Lebanon."

Jemayel's remarks to reporters here constituted an indirect reaction to Israel's decision yesterday to redeploy the Israel Defence Forces to a line along the Awali River in Southern Lebanon.

"We support only the complete withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon," said Jemayel.

Foreign Minister Elie Salem, in Washington with President Jemayel for talks with President Ronald Reagan, said Lebanon had understood it would be consulted before any decision was made on a partial Israeli withdrawal but had as yet received no confirmation of the Israeli cabinet decision.

He said the Lebanese Army is ready to move into any evacuated areas and could keep order there. Some U.S. officials have expressed doubt that this could be achieved in volatile areas such as the Shouf mountains, now patrolled by Israel.

Military sources in Beirut, who declined to be identified further, said yesterday the Lebanese army has readied an 8,000-man force, including U.S.-trained helicopterborne special units, to move into the central mountains once the Israeli withdrawal begins. The sources said the Druse and Christian forces each number about 2,000 men in the Shouf and nearby Aley area.

Lebanese Druse leader Walid Jumblatt has repeatedly warned that the Druse will fight if the Lebanese Army moves into Druse areas before a political agreement is reached. (Reuters, AFP)

First shelling of W. Galilee in year

By MENAHEM HOROWITZ
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HANITA. — A tractor was hit and a field set afire yesterday when several 120 mm mortar shells landed in Western Galilee. There were no casualties.

Residents of the region went into bomb shelters for about half an hour.

Israel Defence Forces units searched the area for the source of the shelling. IDF sources said the shells were fired apparently from the vicinity of Rasbadiya in southern Lebanon.

This is the first time since the beginning of the Lebanon war last year that shells have been fired at Western Galilee, although four months ago two katyusha rockets landed on the Lebanese side of the border.

Katyushas have been fired at Upper Galilee six times since June 1982, falling harmlessly inside Israel twice. The most recent incident occurred nearly two months ago when two katyushas fired towards Israel from the vicinity of the Beaufort Castle landed near Klea in southern Lebanon.

After an inspection of the area, security forces determined that the shells were fired by 120mm mortars from Southern Lebanon. Their range is between five and six kilometres, which indicates that they were probably fired from an area under UNIFIL control.

A hand grenade was thrown at two Israeli army vehicles in Sidon yesterday, it was reported.

Sources said that no Israeli soldiers were hurt, but that a Lebanese civilian was slightly injured and was taken to hospital for treatment.

Cabinet okays Awali line; next move hinges on Lebanon army

IDF to quit 500 sq. km., will lessen reserve duty

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Post Defence Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Yesterday's cabinet decision to redeploy the Israel Defence Forces in Lebanon means the troops will withdraw from the environs of Beirut, the road to Damascus and the Shouf Mountains in a line which will begin just north of Sidon.

The new line is expected to begin near the Awali River some 40 kilometres northwest of Metulla, military sources said.

The IDF will withdraw from an area of nearly 500 square kilometres lying close to Syrian troops and the Christian-Druse fighting.

Military sources said they believe the IDF will now be able to reduce its number of reservists. Thousands of "reserve days" can be saved, a military source said. One estimate said that the IDF force could be reduced in Lebanon by as much as a third.

Israel would like the vacated area to be taken over by the Lebanese Army — if possible with the aid of the multinational force.

The army is known to have considered moving south of Sidon to the Sink River. That would free it of the need to control the 160,000 largely hostile residents of the city. One of the considerations for holding on to it is that it would be difficult to pursue attackers from Sidon if that city is beyond Israel's lines.

A source said last night that the IDF has completed plans for the redeployment to the Awali line. Tenders will be published for dismantling the present line and building the new one.

The new line will include roads, positions and camps, the source said. The contractors will have to provide water, electricity, sewerage and heating. It is still not known how much the project will cost.

So far no withdrawal is envisaged in the Bekaa Valley and from Jebel Barukh. Military sources said they believe the IDF's presence there, just 22 kilometres from Damascus and on top of the mountain, which allows a view of Damascus, could be the major element prompting a Syrian decision to negotiate a departure from Lebanon.

Arens said last night that a change in the IDF's deployment in the eastern sector "depends on Syrian readiness to evacuate Lebanon."

Jerusalem Post Staff

Israel will withdraw in western Lebanon to south of the Awali River if the Lebanese Army proves capable of maintaining security in the areas Israel abandons, Defence Minister Moshe Arens said last night.

Arens was speaking on television following the cabinet's approval yesterday of the Israel Defence Forces initial redeployment plan.

He said the pullbacks in the west would not be contingent upon Syrian withdrawals on the eastern front. The two issues are separate, Arens explained. Israel's policy is to stay put in eastern Lebanon until Syria agrees to mutual withdrawals.

Asked about Israel's unofficial diplomatic mission in Yarz, south of Beirut, the Defence Minister said Israel will maintain a mission in the Beirut area after the redeployment. He indicated that it would no longer be in Yarz, but in another "suitably secure" place.

Cabinet approval of the redeployment plan came in a special session of the Ministerial Defence Committee convened by Prime Minister Menachem Begin on one day's notice. Observers feel the premier was especially anxious to obtain formal approval of the redeployment while Lebanese President Amin

Jemayel is in Washington for talks with U.S. leaders.

The cabinet communiqué said the premier, together with Arens and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, had been empowered to determine the details of the redeployment.

The communiqué noted that the cabinet approval had been unanimous.

The statement did not specify the Awali line, but Arens confirmed in his television interview that this would indeed be the new IDF line, extending from the coast just north of Sidon in a northeasterly direction to encompass the strategic Jebel Barukh mountain and then dropping southwards into the Bekaa Valley. From Jebel Barukh southwards there is no change in the deployment.

The cabinet statement did not specify the time frame for the redeployment, and Arens too was deliberately vague about this. Chief of Staff Rav-Aluf Moshe Levy and other government sources have made it clear, however, that the IDF intends to be dug in along the new line before winter.

Arens said that both the U.S. and Lebanon "understand that we are moving towards redeployment." He spoke of intensive contacts over recent weeks between the IDF and the Lebanese Army with a view to coordinating the redeployment and helping the Beirut government, (Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

U.S. awaits details on Cabinet pullback decision

By WOLF BLITZER
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — The Reagan administration reacted cautiously yesterday to the cabinet's decision to redeploy IDF forces in Lebanon.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes told reporters the decision "does not necessarily complicate" the situation in Lebanon.

But both he and State Department spokesman John Hughes insisted that the U.S. is still awaiting further details from Israel before characterizing the decision one way or another. "You just have to look at the situation on a day by day basis," Speakes said.

A senior State Department official, briefing reporters at the U.S. government's foreign press centre in Washington, said the timing of the decision came as a surprise to the administration.

The official, who could not be identified under the groundrules of the briefing, said the administration had been aware of Israeli plans to undertake the partial pullback. Secretary of State George Shultz discussed the matter with Israeli officials during his recent visit to Jerusalem, he said.

But the official insisted that Israel had not provided Washington with advance information that the cabinet would take up the matter formally yesterday. The official still refused to criticize Israel in any way.

Asked whether the Israeli move violated the Israeli-Lebanese accord, the official replied that the agreement is not in effect, since the instruments of ratification have not been officially exchanged between the two governments.

There were extensive discussions within the administration on the Israeli move, which came shortly after Lebanese President Amin Jemayel arrived here for talks with

President Ronald Reagan and other U.S. officials.

Senior U.S. officials were also still assessing the reasoning behind Prime Minister Menachem Begin's decision to postpone his planned visit to the White House next week.

Once again, informed U.S. sources linked the postponement primarily to what they said was Begin's deteriorating health. Already, State Department, National Security Council and Central Intelligence Agency experts are assessing the likely impact of a change in the Israeli political scene if Begin — for whatever reason — could no longer govern.

Speakes said the U.S. position in Lebanon has not changed as a result of yesterday's cabinet decision. He said the basic U.S. objective remained the same — namely, the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

"Any partial withdrawal, therefore, should be within the framework of that objective and should not complicate the very difficult tasks facing the government of President Jemayel," Speakes said.

He said the U.S. would first want to see the new Israeli lines in Lebanon and the timing of the actual pullback before characterizing the decision as helpful or harmful. The administration, he added, will also consult with the Lebanese government.

In recent weeks, as Israeli plans for a redeployment became clear, both the U.S. and Lebanon reacted coolly to the idea, fearing that it could undermine the Jemayel government by leaving the impression that Lebanon was merely being partitioned by Israel and Syria.

But in the face of Israel's determined stance, both the U.S. and Lebanon were seen in recent days as accepting the move — albeit reluctantly.

The vacuum that will be left by Israel, U.S. officials said, will be filled by the Lebanese Army and units from the multinational force.

At the foreign press centre, the senior U.S. official was asked about Foreign Minister Elie Salem's weekend appeal on U.S. television for the inclusion of the Soviet Union in the negotiations. "Quite honestly," the U.S. official said, "Lebanon has not raised with us the question of the Soviet Union."

The upshot, of course, was that Lebanon's public statements do not always correspond with their private objectives.

The U.S. official held out hope that Syria might yet reconsider its decision not to withdraw from Lebanon. The U.S., he said, is main-

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

Soviets condemn IDF redeployment plan

MOSCOW (AFP). — The official Soviet news agency TASS yesterday characterized Israel's decision to redeploy its troops in Lebanon as "a new step towards the annexation of southern Lebanon."

TASS said the decision to deploy the Israel Defence Forces along the Awali River line "does not change the military positions of the aggressor one bit," but would bring IDF artillery within range of Damascus.

The agency also said that the redeployment would allow Israel's "anti-Arab partner, the U.S., to widen its military presence in Lebanon considerably, with the aim of realizing its aggressive intentions against the neighbouring Arab states."

Aguda threatens walkout

Post Knesset Correspondent

The Agudat Yisrael Knesset faction yesterday threatened to bolt the government coalition if Sabbath violations in Tel Aviv in the form of organized hush services to the Mediterranean Sea do not stop.

Aguda leader MK Avraham Shapira told a joint meeting of his own faction and the National Religious Party faction: "If it does not stop, we shall get out."

The peripatetic multi-millionaire industrialist said: "There is so little religion in North Tel Aviv where I live that it feels more like Paris or Basel." (Shapira has business contacts in most European countries.)

The two factions decided to meet today with Prime Minister Menachem Begin about the Sabbath violations and to ask for Transport Minister Haim Corfu to be present on the grounds that the Dan has cooperative, which gets Treasury subsidies supplies the buses for the Sabbath trips to the seacoast in the guise of another company.

The Aguda faction also will complain that the ultra-Orthodox demonstrators jailed after clashes with police in Jerusalem's Mea She'arim have not been released on bail as was allegedly promised.

The two factions also will sponsor pleas to the High Court charging that the government is aiding and abetting the violation of the Work and Rest Hours Law, which strictly limits all salaried employment on the Sabbath.

Peres: redeployment 'too little and too late'

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Labour Party chairman Shimon Peres yesterday categorized the government's decision to redeploy the Israel Defence Forces inside Lebanon as too little and too late.

The decision should have been taken two months ago, he said, recalling that when Labour proposed the move it had been accused of advocating a unilateral withdrawal. Now another name was chosen for it — redeployment, he said.

Peres said the government should have decided in principle that Israel will withdraw from Lebanon altogether.

It should not have coupled a step-by-step withdrawal with a step-by-step decision-making process, he said. Israel should not rule 750,000 Lebanese, not all of whom are sympathetic, he said.

Peres said Israel should only have air and sea patrols and occasionally other patrols — but it should not maintain a permanent, open presence in Lebanon.

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The weather at major Swissair destinations

20.7.1983	MIN.	MAX.	C F C F
AMSTERDAM	20	28	68 82
BRUSSELS	17	22	63 72
RUENNES	17	22	63 72
CHICAGO	21	31	69 88
COPENHAGEN	18	25	64 77
FRANKFURT	11	22	52 72
GENEVA	18	25	64 77
HELSINKI	11	22	52 72
JOHANNESBURG	27	31	81 88
LONDON	18	25	64 77
MADRID	18	25	64 77
MONTREAL	15	22	59 72
NEW YORK	22	30	72 86
PARIS	18	25	64 77
RIO DE JANEIRO	14	27	57 81
SAO PAULO	11	22	52 72
STOCKHOLM	12	22	54 72
TOKYO	21	31	69 88
VIENNA	22	30	72 86
ZURICH	17	22	63 72

For the latest weather conditions, contact Swissair.

THE WEATHER

Yesterday's	Yesterday's	Today's
Humidity	Min-Max	Min-Max
Jerusalem	52	18-27
Golan	60	17-27
Nahariya	61	20-29
Safed	59	16-26
Haifa Port	66	24-29
Tiberias	43	21-34
Nazareth	51	20-30
Afula	56	19-28
Shomron	52	20-29
Tel Aviv	62	20-30
B-G Airport	38	21-30
Jericho	36	21-36
Gaza	67	22-29
Beersheba	—	18-40
Eilat	18	27-40

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

President Chaim Herzog yesterday was the guest of the Jerusalem Labour Council for a tour of Histadrut factories and institutions in the city.

Finnish Ambassador Matti Kallio and members of the Helsinki Interparliamentary Union yesterday were the luncheon guests of MKs Meir Cohen and Moshe Shahal.

The Walworth Barbour Memorial Grove, honouring the memory of the former U.S. ambassador to Israel, was dedicated yesterday at a ceremony at the Weizmann Institute of Science. The grove was donated by one of Barbour's closest friends, longtime institute Governor Abraham Feinberg, who is also president of the institute's Feinberg Graduate School. Attending the ceremony were Mr. and Mrs. Feinberg, U.S. Ambassador to Israel and Mrs. Samuel Lewis, a number of Feinberg's associates from Hagana days, members of the institute's board of governors, senior scientists and administrators. The ceremony was followed by a dinner, hosted by institute president and Mrs. Michael Sela at their home, in celebration of Feinberg's 75th birthday.

Yeshayahu Lavie, former director-general of the Ministry of Communications, will speak on Human Society in the Era of Communications at the Tel Aviv Hilton, 1:15 p.m. today.

ARRIVALS

Emunah Women of American Exat. Dir. Mrs. Shirley Singer, for convention.

Memorial for Ehrlich

TEL AVIV (Itim). — Prime Minister Menachem Begin yesterday participated in a memorial gathering here at the graveside of the late deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture Simha Ehrlich, on the 30th day since his death.

Others present at the ceremony were Knesset Speaker Menachem Savidor, government ministers, Jewish Agency chairman Arye Dulzin, Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat, leaders of the Liberal Party, family members and friends of the deceased.

Kibbutz wants end to Arab's house arrest

KEREM SHALOM (Itim). — The secretariat of Kibbutz Kerem Shalom has distributed a letter to all members of the Knesset, asking that an order issued in May limiting the movements of a Rafiah resident be rescinded.

The Hashomer Hatzir kibbutz, located near the border with Egypt, also distributed the letter to newspapers, journalists, lawyers, Amnesty International and the Association for Civil Rights in Israel.

The order, issued by the military commander of the region, confines Abdul-Aziz Ali Shaya to the Beduin village of Dahaniya. He cannot leave the village without permission, must be in his home between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. and cannot meet outside people without the commander's permission.

In the letter, the kibbutz writes: "We view the order as a very serious matter, especially since it applies to a person who is not charged with any crime whatsoever."

TO IRENE

MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THIS SPECIAL DAY

Love
Lemard, Miriam
Yigal and Eytan

HOME NEWS

Israel mediates exchange of kidnapped Christians, Druse

ALEY, Lebanon (AP). — Four Christians and nine Druse were released yesterday in an Israeli-mediated exchange of kidnapped victims in the mountains where Israeli troops are expected to begin their pullout.

The bones of three other kidnapped Druse were returned in blue plastic bags. As relatives and reporters watched, they were placed in white cardboard coffins with the words "God's judgment is just" in front of the two-storey stone villa where the Israeli army's civil assistance centre is located on the outskirts of Aley, 12 kilometres southeast of Beirut.

Inside the villa, three of the four Christian prisoners — described as militiamen — received medical treatment from Israeli doctors, who said they had been severely beaten only hours before their release from

six months in captivity. Druse detainees also complained of being beaten repeatedly.

"I feel lucky to be alive. I still can't believe I'm free," said Elias, 25, one of the Christian prisoners kidnapped last February while driving from South Lebanon to Beirut.

Elias, who declined use of his last name, described himself as an electrician and said he was beaten with a board before his release yesterday. An Israeli doctor said he had a possible fractured spine.

Nagib Hamid, 40, a bearded Druse hospital worker, said he was driving to the predominantly Druse city of Aley to buy a car when he was abducted six months ago. "I was kept in a small room with a chair and table, given only cheese and bread, and I did not know if it was day or night. I was beaten frequently."

Kidnappings, gun battles and shelling exchanges have raged between Christian and Druse areas in the central mountain region since last November despite the presence of about 1,500 to 2,000 Israeli troops in the area.

The Israeli officer who arranged the release estimated that 400 kidnappers have been killed in the past year and 130 have been released with Israeli intervention. Lebanese police estimated that between November and the end of May, 797 persons were abducted, with 159 of them killed and 304 unaccounted for.

Israeli soldiers say they are anxious to leave and give up the uncomfortable role of policemen between the warring sects. But many say privately that they fear a vacuum will be created in which the two sides would massacre each other.

There are about 2,000 Christian militiamen in a string of Christian villages in the mountains sandwiched between Druse-controlled villages with an equal number of militiamen.

If the Israelis leave the area, Lebanon President Amin Jemayel has vowed to send in the Lebanese Army backed by contingents of the four-nation multi-national force.

But Druse leaders in Aley made it clear they oppose the deployment of Lebanon's army, claiming it favours the Christians.

"We will believe the Lebanese army when the government makes a full political settlement with the Druse that makes us feel safe in our own country," said Akram Shuhail, a 34-year-old history teacher and the Aley militia commander for the leftist Progressive Socialist Party.

IDF 'tries to avert bloodshed in Shouf'

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Preventing "hostilities among the extremist parties in the Shouf region" and maintaining peace and quiet there "to avoid bloodshed and loss of life among IDF soldiers and inhabitants of the region," are among the difficult tasks facing the IDF in Lebanon, the coordinator of activities there said yesterday.

Uri Lubrani was responding to charges levelled on Tuesday by Israeli Druse that pulled from the Shouf could result in a Christian slaughter of the Druse there if the area is not adequately secured.

Lubrani said Israeli officials are in daily contact with all the factions in Lebanon because of the difficult tasks confronting the IDF.

He noted that "it is unthinkable that anyone dealing with this problem in the Shouf region would discriminate against members of the Druse community." He said every complaint reaching the authorities is dealt with immediately.

U.S. AWAITS

(Continued from Page One)

taining regular diplomatic contact with Damascus. He expressed hope that some new movement in that area could occur shortly after the Jemayel-Reagan talks tomorrow, but he declined to elaborate.

Other U.S. sources, however, noted that Washington is still trying to separate the Israeli-Lebanese accord from the parallel need to remove the Syrians.

Hinting at this, the senior official insisted there was no mention whatsoever of Syria in the Israeli-Lebanese pact signed in May. The only reference, to a Syrian withdrawal, he said, was in Israel's side letter to Washington which the U.S. merely "acknowledged." He said: "There is nothing in the agreement that refers to Syria in any way."

He went on to say that the U.S. has always agreed with Syria that the Syrian presence in Lebanon is "on a wholly different basis" from Israel's.

"The Syrians originally — as we understand it — came into Lebanon on invitation of the Lebanese government," he said.

CABINET

(Continued from Page One)

through its army, to assert its sovereignty and control over the vacated territory.

He dismissed the contention that the redeployment would mean an effective partition of Lebanon. "Lebanon is partitioned now," he noted. The redeployment would enable the Jemayel government to exercise its authority over a broader area than it does now, he said.

After the cabinet meeting, Begin met with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis and conveyed to him Israel's decision. The envoy, who was to accompany Begin on his now-cancelled trip to Washington, is flying home alone today for consultations.

Asher Wallfish adds: When the idea of redeployment was aired in March for the first time in the cabinet by Minister-without-Portfolio Mordechai Ben-Porat, his colleagues derided him, especially Interior Minister Yosef Burg and Deputy Prime Minister David Levy. Ben-Porat was reproached as a defeatist.

Policemen's wives in protest against violence

A group of policemen's wives and their children demonstrated yesterday in front of the Knesset building in protest against violence by citizens against policemen.

"We want our husbands alive," read one of the placards they carried.

Nurit Shapira, chairman of the National Organization for Promoting the Policeman's Status, the group which organized the demonstration, said that attacks on police officers have been on the rise recently. She explained that the women's struggle is not only for the physical safety of the policemen but is also for the quality of life in the country. (Itim)



Curious soldiers look on yesterday as Peace Now activists protest in Hebron against government policy there. Peace Now demands that the curfew in the city be lifted and that the area of the central bus station and the vegetable market be restored to the city's residents and not be handed over to the settlers. (Zoom 77)

New IDF book lifts blame from Gonen

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT Post Defence Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The official Israel Defence Forces account of the Yom Kippur War says that Aluf (res.) Shmuel Gonen, OC Southern Command when the war broke out, was not to blame for the lack of soldiers in the front line on the day of the invasion.

The book, which is to be released shortly, thus contradicts the finding of the state inquiry commission headed by Justice Shimon Agranat, which blamed Gonen for wrongly deploying his forces. Gonen, the

commission said, was largely responsible for the "dangerous situation" in which the IDF was caught on that Yom Kippur.

The commission concluded that Gonen should not command formations larger than brigades. Gonen subsequently quit the army and is now working in central Africa.

The book says that then chief of staff the late Rav-Aluf David Elazar was responsible for the fact that only one brigade was deployed in the front while the other two were in reserve.

Excerpts from the new book

published yesterday in Ha'aretz said: "It is clear beyond doubt that the deployment of one brigade in the front and two in the rear was in accordance with the CoS's decision...The full blame should not be attributed to the OC Southern Command since it was carried out in accordance with the CoS's decision."

Ha'aretz military correspondent Ze'ev Schiff reported that now having finally found some backing for his claim that he had been unfairly treated by the commission, Gonen will seek legal action to clear his name.

Uzan renews Tami's call for early Knesset elections

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Labour and Social Affairs Minister Aharon Uzan said last night that his Tami Party is pushing for early elections, possibly to be held together with municipal elections in October.

Interviewed on television's Moked programme, Uzan said that there is a "good chance" that a majority of the Knesset would support the move for early elections. He called on the Alignment to join Tami, Tehiya and the "better part of the National Religious Party" — Ze'ulun Hammer and Yehuda Ben-Meir — to initiate legislation to dissolve the Knesset.

Uzan said that he and MK Aharon Abuhatzera yesterday in-

formed Prime Minister Menachem Begin of their proposal to move up elections. He said that Begin listened but did not express an opinion.

He said that Tami had failed twice previously to broaden the coalition so that the government could deal with critical problems in the economy and other areas.

Asked about Begin's health, Uzan said the premier appeared to be "functioning properly."

Another reason cited by Uzan for early elections was the lack of collegiality in the cabinet. He said he is even ready for cuts in his ministry's budget if budget cuts would be accompanied by other economic measures.

Blast, fire destroy Tel Aviv building

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Three persons were injured when an explosion and fire destroyed a building in South Tel Aviv yesterday morning.

The explosion was probably caused by the ignition of industrial chemicals kept in the building, which served as a storeroom, on the corner of Uriel Akuta and Emek Yisrael Streets, fire department sources said.

Injured were a 15-year-old boy who suffered from shock, and his father and another adult who were slightly scratched as they were walking by the building at the time of the explosion. The building's ceiling collapsed inwards, and a barrier at the entrance was thrown out by the impact, smashing a car. Window panes throughout the area were shattered.

Magen David Adom ambulances and police rushed to the spot, fearing a terrorist act. Firemen prevented the blaze from spreading to nearby buildings.

The injured were taken to Rokah Hospital for treatment.

Liberals pick Haifa mayoral candidate

By DAVID RUDGE Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — Mordechai Tecosky, the 70-year-old elder statesman of the Haifa Liberal Party, was nominated at a branch meeting last night to become the Likud candidate for mayor in the October municipal elections. The decision was unanimous.

He now has to win the support of the local Herut branch, which already has two candidates for the post — Likud MK Meir Cohen-Avidov and Yael Rom, wife of Likud MK Yosef Rom.

Under the agreement between Herut and the Liberals, the candidate for mayor must be a Liberal. At last night's meeting, Energy Minister Yitzhak Moda'i admitted there have been difficulties in finding a suitable Liberal candidate. As a result of the delay, Herut has put forward its own nominees.

Tecosky, who has lived in Haifa for 50 years and runs a photo shop in the Hadar area, said he hopes that Herut accepts his nomination, so that there will be only one Likud candidate to run against the Alignment's nominee, incumbent Mayor Arye Gurul.

(Haifa Liberals — Page 3)

Opposition won't make issue of Begin's 'state of mind'

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT Jerusalem Post Reporter

Coalition and Opposition Knesset members yesterday said they do not believe Prime Minister Menachem Begin's state of mind will become a political issue — at least not at the present time.

The Labour Party's Knesset faction decided not to dwell on what they believe is Begin's poor mood and health. Senior Labour MKs explained that talk on the subject may antagonize the public.

"It's not like in the U.S. where the president's health is a topic for national concern. The Israeli public doesn't like it when you poke around a man's insides," a senior Labour source said.

Shinui will also refrain from concentrating on Begin's spirals.

Instead, the opposition will attack the government's conduct — and that will come up at the Knesset today. But an Alignment MK predicted that that issue will also die out, because yesterday's cabinet decision to withdraw the IDF to the Awa line signifies that it does make decisions.

Meanwhile, Dov Shilansky, a deputy minister at the Prime Minister's Office, yesterday hailed Begin's mental attitude. He said the Alignment's insinuations were "first grade mabce," and added that his personal experience bore that out. "I go into his office quite often," he said. "Sometimes there are issues

which I decide not to raise with him. I think he's so busy — I should leave him alone. But he doesn't forget. I want to leave and he asks: 'What happened with...?'"

"I am sometimes surprised at how well he follows every little detail. I almost gave up hope of presenting him with something new. Whenever I find something and bring it to his attention, I find out he already knows," Begin's deputy said.

David Rudge adds: Energy Minister Yitzhak Moda'i last night scotched rumours that Begin is considering resigning.

"I haven't seen any indication that the prime minister wants to leave his post, and I think he would not do so while our soldiers are still in Lebanon," Moda'i said.

The minister, who was attending a meeting of the Liberal Party branch in Haifa, said it was true that Begin made a public statement six years ago that he would leave public life when he reached the age of 70.

"Two years ago, however, the prime minister corrected that statement and said he would stay on as long as his services are required," the minister continued. "He (Begin) also said that he would allow his party and the Likud enough time to process and elect the person who will take his place."

"I have seen nothing that contradicts the latter statement," Moda'i said.

BEGIN

(Continued from Page One)

viously affecting the prime minister and its repercussions on his ability to function.

But after the cabinet meeting, ministers went out of their way to praise Begin's strong and sure running of the session. "Alert and forceful" were the epithets Deputy Premier David Levy (Likud-Herut) used.

"Give him time," Levy added, "and he will explain to the nation his reasons for deferring the visit to Washington."

Other coalition spokesmen, among them MK Eliahu Ben-Elissar (Likud-Herut) and MK Ronnie Milo (Likud-Herut), went on the radio to argue that the deferment was actually a good thing for Israel.

Begin's spokesman Uri Porat told educational TV that there is no need for a visit at this time since there are no outstanding issues between

Israel and the U.S. Begin is in "very good health," Porat added, and is functioning "excellently."

The impression apparently garnered by ministers at the cabinet meeting, and conveyed to the coalition rank-and-file, was that Begin wanted to put the deferment episode behind him. (He did not actually tell the ministers why he had deferred; he merely mentioned that he was sorry he had done so without consulting them.)

Certainly within the coalition there is an overwhelming hope and desire that the premier will stay on in office. No one relishes a succession struggle at this time. If that is indeed the premier's intention, it will be welcomed in the coalition with enthusiastic relief — and with a united resolve to beat off opposition challenges about Begin's ability to bear the strains and burdens of his job.

(Reaction — Page 2)

Beit Shemesh Engines head quits over lack of funds

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT Post Defence Reporter

The director of the Beit Shemesh Engines Company, Michael Cohen, has resigned over the government's failure to provide funds essential for the factory's survival. In addition, the head of the town's local council, Yehuda Ben-Ze'ev, said all local industries will strike on Sunday unless the problem is solved.

The factory, which employs 1,300, produces jet engines for the Israel Defence Forces. It requires some \$10 million to continue operations, spokeswoman Tamar Katorza told The Jerusalem Post.

She said Cohen, a former air force officer appointed to the post last October, had been promised funds if his plan to put the factory on its feet were approved. The plan was approved, but the Defence Ministry did not provide the money or the necessary guarantees for bank loans. The plant's situation worsened when the government

failed to deny rumours that it would be closed.

Cohen's resignation becomes effective on August 1, although management has asked him to reconsider his decision.

Ben-Ze'ev said the works committees in the 10 plants in town are preparing a general strike and a demonstration on Sunday to back the engine factory workers.

The Defence Ministry's spokesman yesterday sought to allay fears that the plant would be closed. "The Defence Ministry is adamant about keeping the Beit Shemesh plant as a factory for manufacturing engines," he said.

The Knesset Economics Committee is to discuss the crisis at Beit Shemesh Engines soon, committee chairman Gad Ya'acobi said yesterday. The committee has heard that the company's difficulties stem from various official bodies not honouring financial obligations to it.

Bomb dismantled in Jerusalem's Atarot area

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Police sappers dismantled a medium-sized home-made bomb found yesterday near the main gas cylinders of the Hamasbhir Hamerazi warehouses in Jerusalem's Atarot industrial area.

The bomb was discovered by 17-year-old Yosef Yosefi, a worker in the warehouse cafeteria. Police

spokesman Pakad Ziv Rotem said the youth would get a letter of commendation from Tat-Nitzny Rahamim Comfort, the commander of the Jerusalem police.

Comfort called on the public to be on the alert for suspicious objects and not to hesitate to call the police in case such objects are found.

MDs' arbitration postponed to Sunday

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The start of the arbitration process in the doctors' dispute has been postponed from today until Sunday, the Justice Ministry spokesman said last night.

After last Sunday's selection of Atomic Energy Commission director-general Uzi Eilam as the

arbitrator, it was announced that the panel would start sitting today. The panel, which also includes Treasury wage division head Hillel Dudai and Israel Medical Association deputy chairman Dr. Haim Zakut, decided that Sunday would be "more convenient," a government source said.

Dimona man held as rape suspect

DIMONA (Itim). — A Dimona resident, 32, who was released from prison about half a year ago, was brought to Beersheba Magistrates Court on suspicion that he raped a local girl.

The police told the court that the suspect met the girl in the town's central bus station last week, led her to a nearby schoolyard and when she refused his advances, raped her.

Sela fears results of education cuts

Jerusalem Post Reporter

REHOVOT. — The state of the economy is bound to harm the future of scientific research in Israel, Weizmann Institute of Science president Michael Sela said at a graduation exercise yesterday.

Sela also told the 123 MA and PhD graduates that threatened budgetary cuts would make institutions of higher learning in Israel unable to meet the challenges of the next century.

In deep sorrow we announce the sudden passing of our dear

CHANA ALDEANO

The funeral cortege took place on July 20 in Jerusalem.

Dalia and Michael Pagan and the children

THE KNESSET/Aryeh Rubinstein Moda'i aims to trim subsidy on electricity

The Energy and Infrastructure Ministry aims to reduce the subsidy on electricity to the point where consumers pay a realistic price, as it did two years ago, Minister Itzhak Moda'i said in the Knesset yesterday.

Reporting on his ministry's activities, he said that in 1980/81, the government subsidy of electricity amounted to \$1,000 million, which covered about 2 per cent of the cost. In 1981/82, the subsidy was \$2.5 billion, or close to 16 per cent of the cost. In the current year the situation is "much worse."

Moda'i said the ministry wants electricity rates to rise more rapidly than the increases in the costs of the inputs (fuel, labour, and capital), so that by the end of the current fiscal year they will be realistic.

The minister said Israel still imports over 98 per cent of its fuel. It is now producing some electricity from coal instead of from crude oil, an advantage, because coal is available from many countries friendly to Israel.

Even more advantageous, Moda'i

said, will be the production of electricity in nuclear stations. Here, too, the raw material can be bought from friendly nations, but it is also cheaper and much easier to store. Israel will undoubtedly enter the nuclear age, he said.

Israel has more solar water-heating units — close to 600,000 — than any other country in the world, Moda'i said. But this is only a marginal achievement. Production of electricity from the sun's heat would be much more significant.

The minister said that within the next six or eight weeks, a small power station producing energy entirely from the sun's energy will be put into operation in the area north of Katza, on the Dead Sea.

He said this will be the only power station in the world to produce electricity from the sun's energy alone, without any auxiliary sources.

Pensioners' plight
In the first of 10 motions for the agenda on the government's failures in various areas, which the Alignment

ment hopes to present before the Knesset recesses next week, Nava Arad raised the question of the erosion of civil service pensions.

She said that some 350,000 former civil servants are getting pensions that came to less than half the average wage in the economy. Deputy Labour and Social Affairs Minister Benzion Rubin replied that the problem is a serious one, but not one that the Likud invented.

The trouble is that the civil servants' retirement plan, unlike those of the teachers and other professions, does not link pensions to the current grade and salary of persons doing identical work.

For example, Rubin said, a civil servant who retired five, or seven, or 10 years ago in grade 13 was getting a relatively high salary and hence started with a satisfactory pension. But since then, there have been regradings, and grade 13 is what new employees start with.

Here Rubin addressed himself to Yoram Mesheh, Histadrut secretary-general and Alignment MK, and asked him why he has

been so negligent of the interests of the civil servants.

Mesheh replied that this will certainly be seen to in future agreements.

The matter was referred to the Labour and Social Affairs Committee.

Illegal posters

The Knesset yesterday passed into law a bill initiated by Amnon Rubinstein (Shinui) designed to deal more effectively with the illegal posting of advertisements and other notices.

Until now it was necessary to catch the person posting the bill in the act. Under the new law, the name of the advertiser on the notice will be sufficient grounds for prosecution.

The law also provides for payment of a fine in lieu of a trial, and for the filing of a civil complaint. Revenue from the fines will go to the local authorities in an effort to spur them to enforce the law, particularly during the forthcoming municipal election campaigns.



An estimated 10,000 zealots yesterday gathered at dawn in Jerusalem's Mea She'arim quarter to protest against archaeological excavations near the Old City. (Rahamin Israeli)

Corfu admits inspections of car garages are 'worthless'

Post Knesset Correspondent

Transport Minister Haim Corfu yesterday said that his ministry's car garage inspection division is "worthless."

Corfu told the Knesset State Control Committee that a total of six officials responsible for the whole of the country have to inspect 3,400 licensed garages, another few hundred unlicensed garages and about 100 garages authorized to conduct annual vehicle tests.

"We have no prospect of increasing the number of inspectors," Corfu said. "We have no budget."

The minister said that he has not succeeded in getting a single new law or regulation through the Knesset to increase road safety, because of resistance in committees.

To this, Labour's Tamar Eshel replied: "It's the government which prevents anything getting done on road safety."

Haim Rubin, head of the Trans-

port Ministry's claims department, accused the police of refusing to help the ministry close unlicensed garages.

But the police representative present, Rav-Akiva David Mor, rejected Rubin's accusation, and promised that the police will shut all garages against which the ministry issues closure orders.

Transport Ministry officials admitted that the number of complaints against garages has increased greatly last year, since it has become common knowledge that the ministry probes such complaints slowly and ineffectively.

POLICE CAMP. — Some 300 children attending day camps in Negev communities yesterday toured Jerusalem and visited police facilities as guests of the southern police district.

Ex-student leader accused of embezzling union funds

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Former Tel Aviv University student union chairman Eli Kraus was accused yesterday of stealing funds from the union and depositing them in a private bank account. He and the union accountant were also accused of taking severance pay from the union's severance fund while continuing to draw monthly salaries from the union.

Kraus was cross-examined on 13 counts of taking bribes, extortion, fraud and breach of trust by prosecutor Dvora Berliner at the district court.

He denied the accusations, maintaining that the student union had ceased to exist, and he had opened an account to finance the establishment of a new student association. Asked whether there was any evidence of his intention to set up a new association or whether he had

told anyone about it, he replied that there had been no one to tell.

Concerning the severance fees, Kraus said that union accountant Gabi Nissim had told him that one could draw fees from the severance fund "on account."

Kraus also received 25 per cent of the profits from the cafeteria run by Michael Avisroor, whom Kraus had appointed, Berliner charged.

Asked why he had appointed Avisroor, who had burned a car on campus and been expelled for it, Kraus said the previous manager grew long hair, wore boots in summer and looked "freaky." "Did you consult anyone before appointing Avisroor, in light of his background and violent behaviour on campus?" asked Berliner.

"I didn't need any recommendations. I never did. I was the only one making the decisions. Avisroor suffered by being expelled and needed to be compensated," Kraus said.

Aguda musters forces to halt Jerusalem dig

By ROBERT ROSENBERG

Sources in Jerusalem's religious neighbourhoods say that there is growing pressure on rabbinical leaders of Agudat Yisrael to use their influence to put an end to the entire archaeological dig at the City of David.

The ultra-Orthodox sources noted that many of the estimated 10,000 people who demonstrated peacefully at dawn yesterday in Jerusalem's Kikar Shabbat against the archaeological dig belong to the Aguda. Present, though out on the speakers platform, were leading rabbis from the Belz Hassidic community, which usually refrains from joining the more militant of the ultra-Orthodox Eda Haredit battles.

The sources said that Eda Haredit rabbis would be discussing the matter of alleged grave desecration at the dig with rabbis from the Council of Torah Sages, the highest authority of the Aguda.

Pressure is also mounting in the ultra-religious community for the Aguda to seek ways to remove the Education Ministry and the Religious Affairs Ministry from

ministers of the National Religious Party. Posters to that effect are plastered on Mea Shearim walls. At yesterday's rally, Education and Culture Minister Zevulun Hammer and Religious Affairs Minister Yosef Burg were repeatedly mentioned in derogatory terms.

The Aguda's role in the current ultra-Orthodox militancy has been compromised somewhat by its inability to get 15 yeshiva students held by police by court order out of jail. The Aguda's lawyer has appealed the remand of 11 of the 15, but to no avail.

All 15 are being held until the end of proceedings against them. Four have refrained from promising that they will not participate in future demonstrations, and therefore are not being represented by the Aguda's lawyer.

The peaceful rally yesterday climaxed with an explicit order by Rabbinical Court President Rabbi Yitzhak Weiss that the assembled demonstrators return home peacefully.

This came after a meeting between Weiss and other court

members with the ranking officers of the Jerusalem police force, including Nitzav Yehoshua Caspi and Tati-Nitzav Rahamin Comfort. Some 600 policemen and border policemen were on alert nearby during the demonstration.

The Movement of M'sorati (Conservative) Judaism criticized the ultra-Orthodox community for its recent violent demonstrations against archaeological excavations and called on the government to enforce the law and punish offenders.

The M'sorati movement issued a statement against "the long line of such attacks in which this community, purporting to be religious and daring to speak in the name of Judaism, the Torah and God, has violated the very basic precepts of our sacred tradition."

In New York on Tuesday, an estimated 400 Satmar hassidim demonstrated outside the Israeli mission to the UN in protest against the Jerusalem digs. The hassidim carried signs reading, "Let our sages rest in peace" and "Stop maiming men, women and children, indiscriminately in Jerusalem."

Working immigrants face higher rent in absorption centres

By JUDY SIEGEL

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Working immigrant couples living in absorption centres will soon be charged nearly double the rent they now pay, to induce them to leave, Jewish Agency immigration department chairman Ephraim Kotlowitz told reporters in Jerusalem yesterday that 30 absorption centres around the country are full, and that westerners have increased "dramatically." As a

result, the rent increase will be instituted for some immigrants so they are not encouraged to remain in the temporary living quarters.

The rent increases will be staggered over several months, reaching 50 per cent of the rent of a similar private apartment in the same area. But Kotlowitz emphasized that only families in which both parents are earning salaries will be affected by the rent increase. The higher rent will not exceed one-fourth of the couple's joint net income, he added.

Kotlowitz estimated that 18,000 new immigrants will arrive this year, compared to 13,259 in 1982. Of the total expected in 1983, about 13,000 of them will come from western countries, compared to 8,847 from the West in 1982. He conceded that many are being motivated by difficult economic conditions and unemployment abroad, or religious reasons but he also took credit for some of the increase, pointing out new programmes he introduced to encourage immigration in stages.

Meanwhile, the number of emigrants returning home is also increasing, with 2,200 arriving here from April through June of this year, he said.

Asked about an immigration department leaflet in which his sister Rachel, whom he appointed to head a volunteers' unit, praises Kotlowitz, the chairman said: "What's wrong with that? It's unfair to criticize. My sister is qualified for her job and wanted to give a personal note of thanks."

Mother suspects babies were switched

ASHKELON (Itim). — Doubt about a possible baby mix-up in the Barzilai Hospital maternity ward has led an Ashkelon woman and her husband to do an expensive laboratory test at Tel Hashomer to determine conclusively whether the infant she took home from the hospital is truly hers. But all sides balk at paying to get the results.

The woman's doubts began shortly after she gave birth at the hospital a few weeks ago. Right after the birth, the attending physician told her she had a healthy 3.5 kilogram baby boy, and registered the male infant's birth on her chart. Some time afterwards another doctor looked in on her and asked how she felt. She said she felt weak but wanted to know how her son was doing. "What son?" said the doctor. "You have a girl."

The woman then showed him the card on which the birth of a boy was recorded. But the doctor simply struck out the word "boy" and wrote in "girl."

The woman raised a fuss, but in the end, left the hospital with a girl. A few days later, however, she returned, said she wasn't prepared to raise the girl and asked for an investigation and examination.

The hospital authorities referred her to Tel Hashomer, where tissue samples were taken from her, her husband and the infant girl. But

when the time came to receive the results, the family was told it had to pay \$15,000. The family refused to pay.

Commenting on the incident, Dr. Adiel Vardi, director of Barzilai Hospital, said "we had and have no doubts. We didn't request the examination. Therefore, we don't have to pay for it."

Women IDs say Hadassah discriminates

By MARGERY GEENFELD

Jerusalem Post Reporter

No changes in the Hadassah Medical Organization's pension agreement, including recent moves to raise the mandatory retirement age for women from 60 to 65, can be made without the agreement of all seven signatories to the current arrangement, the Hadassah spokesman said yesterday.

In a suit submitted to the Jerusalem District Labour Court by 7 senior women doctors and researchers at Hadassah, the women allege that the rule requiring them to retire at the age of 60 is discriminatory, since the mandatory retirement age for men is 65.

On Tuesday the claimants' request for a temporary injunction barring Hadassah from enforcing the retirement rules was dropped, after Hadassah's legal adviser promised the court that no changes would be made to the doctors' status until after the court had issued its ruling in the matter. The court is scheduled to resume hearings on the case in October, after its summer recess.

While the retirement age for women working in the civil service and the public sector has been raised to 65, no such arrangements have been made in the private sector. The prime minister's adviser on women's affairs, Dr. Nitzav Shapira-Libai, requested six months ago that

the Hadassah management change its retirement rules.

No action was taken, and the women then turned to the court. Their claim is based on a National Labour Court ruling that clauses in a collective agreement that discriminate against a particular group are not legal.

The Hadassah administration cannot change the pension agreement without first obtaining the agreement of all seven signatories: the Hadassah Medical Organization, the Israel Medical Association, the Jerusalem Labour Council, and the staff committees of Hadassah workers, senior doctors, department heads and junior doctors, the spokesmen said.

Youthful hash smokers nabbed in K. Malachi

KIRYAT MALACHI (Itim). — The Kiryat Malachi police surprised three minors early this week while they were smoking hashish in an empty lot in the centre of town. The police, acting on an anonymous tipoff, arrived on the scene and managed to arrest two of the three youngsters.

Treasury backs down on raising tax on buying flats

Post Economic Reporter

The Treasury has decided not to raise the tax rates on the purchase of flats as it had planned. Finance Minister Yoram Arlosi informed the Knesset Finance Committee yesterday.

Some weeks ago the Treasury told the committee that it was re-evaluating an adjustment of the apartment purchase tax brackets, since cause of inflation, the prices of flats had increased. At the same time the minister asked for a rise in the rates, and the step was opposed by committee members.

The committee's opposition convinced the minister that he would not be able to raise the tax rates,

and therefore he informed Chairman Shimon Lornicz that only an adjustment of the brackets according to the inflation rate during the last year will be requested.

The committee is expected to approve this request today, and the brackets will be effective retroactively to June 15.

Observers pointed out that this is the last in a series of defeats suffered by Arlosi in recent weeks. In addition to the flat purchase tax, he was not able to impose a tax on bank account transactions, to change the law granting tax privileges to the Israel Corporation or to get cabinet agreement on a budget cut.

UNIFIL complains of 'IDF threat'

By DAVID RUDGE

Jerusalem Post Reporter

UNIFIL has complained to the Israel Defence Forces about two separate incidents in which IDF personnel dressed in civilian clothes allegedly attempted to pass UNIFIL checkpoints without identifying themselves.

UNIFIL spokesman Timor Goksel said that Duteb troops manning a checkpoint near the southern Lebanese village of Yata were threatened on Sunday by a civilian driver, armed with a Kalashnikov rifle, who refused to stop his private car. The man turned out to be a captain in the IDF.

On the same day French troops at a UNIFIL checkpoint near the village of Jwayya stopped two civilian vehicles containing five armed men who refused to identify themselves. After a prolonged argument the five men identified themselves as IDF personnel, said Goksel.

He said that protests were immediately lodged with the IDF through liaison channels. The IDF spokesman said yesterday the army was checking the complaint.

Goksel said he thought the incidents resulted from a clash of personalities and did not reflect a change in IDF policy towards UNIFIL.

One UNIFIL source said there had been ongoing problems with civilian-clothed IDF personnel who operate in the southern Lebanon area. But he stressed that relations between the regular IDF units and UNIFIL are correct, and any problems are quickly resolved.

No canned food for Ansar prisoners

Post Defence Reporter

The 500 prisoners at the Ansar camp in southern Lebanon stopped eating canned food because they said the cans to prepare weapons chemicals, according to chief financial officer Tat-Aluf Rami Khan.

In an interview to the army's spokesman, Dotan said the prisoners placed those supplies with meat, beans and peas, tomato and large quantities of bread. Inmate consumes about a kilo a day compared with the 400 grams that Israeli soldiers eat, he said.

Dotan said the prisoners do not eat the soft inside of the standard Israeli bread, and that pita with

special flour is being prepared. They are as hard as the crust of the Israeli bread, he said.

He revealed that the Israel Defence Forces has completed the development of a new parachute which would enable a softer landing. The parachute, called Sabra, will reduce the danger of broken legs from improper landings, he said.

STUDENTS. — Some 450 students from about 30 countries are enrolled in the first semester of this year's summer courses programme at the Hebrew University's Rothberg School for Overseas Students on Mount Scopus. Another 350 are expected for the second semester.

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Why the sparks fly

The Jerusalem Post's Robert Rosenberg describes the background to the violence in Mea She'arim

THIS PAST week's violence in Mea She'arim — and the violence expected in coming weeks — can be seen as one more chapter in the long and complicated history of relations among the various ultra-Orthodox sects in Jerusalem. The secular population largely sees only a sea of undifferentiated black until the waves of Orthodox political fervor spill onto the streets.

"It used to be the swimming pools, then it was the stadium, then Ramot, then the pathologists, then Ramot again. Now it's the archeologists. And when the dig is over, there will be something else," explains a long-time observer of the ultra-Orthodox community.

At the heart of the matter is the fundamental principle that rules Mea She'arim and other religious neighborhoods — opposition to the Zionists. Eved coalition member Agudat Yisrael is inexorably linked to the politics of riots in Mea She'arim, because even as they vote for government policies, their rabbi argues that only the messiah can make the Jewish state.

There are several levels to the political and ultra-Orthodox interests that operate to guarantee that street-fighting will break out between religious yeshiva students and police, the symbol of secular authority.

The most obvious factors now are the hot summer, the long tedious hours of yeshiva study and the exuberance of youth. The same boys were out every night last week burning garbage bins and tossing rocks. A Jerusalemite who left the *Eda Haredit* community as an adolescent told me: "There's no sex, no sports, nothing to let off steam. Throwing rocks and shouting *shabbos* is fun."

Mea She'arim has no television, no cafes, no movie theatres, no entertainment as the secular world knows it. Any unusual event in the neighbourhood draws hundreds, if not thousands, of curiosity seekers. Typically, the June visit of the Satmar Rebbe, who can count barely 5,000 hassidim among his flock throughout Israel, drew nearly 50,000 hassidim to Mea She'arim during his visit.

A rock-throwing, garbage bin burning night — chasing and being chased by the cops — is entertainment. "It's like a movie out here," said a secular woman who was caught in the riots last week. And she was right. The bright lights of the television cameras, the sound of sirens, the screaming and the running boots of policemen were all out of a movie.

Behind the spectacle and the entertainment it provides is the real cause of the violence.

OVERCROWDED and poor, compared to much of the rest of

Jerusalem, Mea She'arim is hardly a homogeneous community in other respects. The yeshivot vie for students, and a key issue drawing potential clients away from rivals is a yeshiva's stand on Zionism.

It is no longer true to say that only Neturei Karta is militantly, indeed violently, anti-Zionist. During the last 10 years, as Southern District Police Commander Nitzav Yehoshua Caspi pointed out, "the militants have grown in number." The few dozen activists of Neturei Karta could not account for the 2,000 who gathered at a rally to curse archeologist Yigal Shilo and pray that his hands fall off.

The *Eda Haredit*, with an estimated 15,000 in Jerusalem who adhere to the rulings of its rabbinical courts, and another 25,000 in Bnei Brak, provide the rank and file.

By the end of last week, there were ostensibly moderate followers of Agudat Yisrael who were calling the police "Nazis."

"ONE MUST keep in mind that in 50 years the mayor of Jerusalem will probably be a politician from Agudat Yisrael," a researcher who studies the changing demography of Jerusalem recently told a visiting U.S. politician.

They know that eventually they will win their war with the Zionists, at least in Jerusalem, he said.

Surely the vast majority of people in Mea She'arim, Goula, Beit Yisrael, the Buchanan Quarter and Mekor Baruch are not interested in going out to throw rocks at passing police cars or egged huses. Like people everywhere, most of them are peaceful folk; police logs last week recorded dozens of telephone calls from the residents of those neighborhoods, complaining about the *meshugganes*. But the *meshugganes* are acting in the name of an ideology that stretches the entire length of Rebbe Mea She'arim, starting just east of Romema, in Mekor Baruch. It's the ideology of opposition to Zionism.

Some people find it over-the-top convenient to work with the Zionists — and in many ways, the violence is directed at them. Agudat Yisrael "are the biggest hypocrites of all," said a Satmar student, an American in Israel to study. He carried a rock around in one of the pockets of his long black coat during the nights of street-fighting.

"Inside their yeshivot they are preaching against the Zionists, but they sit with Begio, may his name be erased, and they take his money, Zionist money," said the student, who gave his name as Menachem.

According to Menachem, whose colorful language and accent reflect the streets of Brooklyn, "when cops toss tear gas at us, it

works to embarrass the Aguda." And there's no mistaking his pleasure in any embarrassment caused to the Aguda.

A TRIGGER in this month's violence was the visit of the Satmar Rebbe. Rumors swept the city that he would bring with him \$3m. in cash. Before he arrived, the figure had jumped to \$5m., and it was to be carried in suitcases that would be given away. Rumor in Mea She'arim, where wall posters are the mass media, is always rife and exaggerated. Quite often it is divorced from fact.

The disappointment over the suitcase myth was terrific, especially in the Atra Kadisha, the funeral society of the *Eda Haredit*. The Atra has been managing the campaign against the City of David dig.

Sources close to the Atra Kadisha said that the Satmar Rebbe in the end gave only a few thousand dollars to the organization.

"They were very, very upset," can tell you that," said Menachem. "They were expecting a whole lot more."

A significant element in the violence are the press photographers. A photograph of a policeman clubbing a yeshiva student is worth money to the photographer as a hot item for a newspaper in Israel or one of the wire services. It's worth much, much more to the fund-raisers of the various anti-Zionist sects.

Last week, on Thursday night, when the violence was at least temporarily halted by order of the *Eda Haredit* rabbinical court, this reporter found himself in a crowd of young zealots in their early twenties. They were passing around pictures of the previous nights' demonstrations. They had been given "appropriate" captions: "Zionist soldiers (sic) beat God-fearing women."

Indeed, a photograph that surely will earn many thousands of dollars abroad for the Tora Viyirab yeshiva — the home of the Neturei Karta — is one showing a religious woman, blood streaming down her face, holding up a *siddur* with its pages smeared with her blood.

That the woman was one of seven who attacked a policeman, knocked him to the ground and kicked him in all parts of his body; that she was injured when the policeman, in scrambling to his feet, knocked her against a metal fence, will never appear in any caption to that picture.

ULTIMATELY, one doesn't doubt the sincerity of the zealots in speaking of the pain they feel about the desecration of graves.

"How would you like it if it was your father's grave they were digging up over there," was the phrase repeated over and over again by young and old, men and women. For them, the archeologists' work is illegitimate, their science evil. The issues of morality involved are intensely felt, and the passions are evident.

But many of the demonstrators,

the curiosity seekers who get caught in the battle, and the righteous who cry out in anguish over alleged grave desecration, are caught in a larger struggle about the politics of money and power.

No individual has control over events. The police arrest of the so-called foreign minister of Neturei Karta, Moshe Hirsch, will not put an end to the battles. It is also out in the hands of the rabbis, who otherwise rule almost absolutely in Mea She'arim.

Rosh Hashana is two months away and that's the big fundraising time. And the weeks ahead will provide hot, irritating weather.

There are many stereotypes of the Jews who make headlines by throwing stones on the streets of Jerusalem. To themselves, they are the only real Jews left in the world. Shalom Aleichem made them famous on Broadway because they cherish tradition. Part of their tradition is hatred for Zionists and for the collaborators they see in the Aguda. The police, the men in uniform, do not represent an authority they respect.

In Mea She'arim, the law was laid down at Mt. Sinai.

Tragedy of Holland

By RAHEL HOLLANDER-STEINGART / Special to The Jerusalem Post

THERE ARE many lessons to be learned from the tragedy that befell Dutch Jewry under Nazi occupation. From July 1942 until September 1943 close to 115,000 Jews were deported — in cattle wagons driven by Dutchmen — and we are left with questions about why more was not done to rescue them.

Two months after the invasion, the Nazis began to promulgate a series of decrees discriminating against the Jews. At first, they did not seem so terrible. But it did not take long for the insidious intent of the Germans to isolate Dutch Jewry to become clear.

However, the man in the street can seldom do something without support. He needs reinforcement from the society around him. The first show of gentile protest came in the famous February strike of 1941. There were positive forces in the gentile population, and they made themselves felt in this spontaneous protest — the only one of its kind in Nazi Europe.

The Dutch Nazi Party (NSB) had instigated riots in the old Jewish quarter of Amsterdam and then used the riots as a pretext for sending 400 young Jews, who had organized for self-defence, to Mauthausen.

The workers of Amsterdam rose in spontaneous protest. The strike, crushed within 24 hours, did not affect the persecution, but it did reinforce the trust of the Dutch Jews in their compatriots that they "won't let it happen here."

Whether the strike would have been crushed quite so easily had the Dutch authorities supported the people is another matter. Every year the dock workers of Amsterdam commemorate the strike, because it symbolizes the traditional ideals of the Dutch people.

These ideals eventually also found expression in the forming of small resistance groups. Joining was a knowingly dangerous step. There were smaller risks. State employees were asked by the Germans to sign, in the fall of 1940, an infamous declaration. Most of them did and declared they were "no Jew or kinsmen of Jews," an act which in fact became the foundation for the discriminatory steps. At that time the Germans could not have jailed 20,000 state employees, or even have dismissed them for not signing, as they needed the Dutch state machinery.

When the resistance groups were formed, they were easily infiltrated by the Dutch fascists. Gradually and through costly experience, they became better security-minded and better organized.

By July 1942, some Jews finally realized that the obedience

guideline of Frederiks, the Dutch secretary-general who signed the decrees of the Reichskommissar, not only failed to prevent "worse," but even achieved the contrary. They started searching for ways out; and at that point the resistance groups took it upon themselves to hide Jews in the homes of gentiles.

Every person who worked with the resistance or even hid a Jew for the night knew that if caught, he would either be interrogated by the Gestapo, imprisoned and shot or sent like a Jew to the camps in the East. The Jews who participated in the resistance did not have the option of sitting out the war years in safety.

As for the gentiles, some have explained in a TV programme on the resistance (screened in Israel) that they acted to realize their ideals. They did so in extremely difficult circumstances since — in contrast to the Danish — they received no support from the Dutch Government and could expect no help from it if caught. From the queue and the government in London, they got little but words.

ESTABLISHING contact with those prepared to hide someone was difficult, for people were understandably afraid of German agents. The problems of keeping resistance activities clandestine were endless. Identity cards had to be obtained for Jews in "open" hiding. Some could be bought, but at 500 guilders or more, many had to be stolen and falsified. The alternative was secret hideouts with obvious drawbacks.

For Jews in the resistance, open hiding was, of course, a necessity. Food cards had to be obtained for all and distributed monthly to the hiders. New addresses had to be found for those living in places that had become unsafe and ways devised to move people without the NSB or other collaborators noticing. Officially the NSB made up roughly 5 per cent of the population, but their sympathizers also informed. Then there were informers for profit.

Some of the resistance groups found ways of smuggling young people over the Belgian border, to France and Spain and from there to Palestine. The members of the Hechalutz movement in Holland who had joined the resistance were in contact with the movement's members in other countries.

Why was this activity not begun earlier? The answer is complex and only its most salient components can be stated here.

The Dutch people were believed to be indivisible and the only leadership acknowledged by Dutch

Jewry was the Dutch Government. This held also for A. Asser and D. Cohen, the heads of the Jewish council set up by the Germans. They followed Frederiks' line, believing that "if we won't antagonize the Dutch authorities, they won't let worse happen." Without going into the controversial issue of what they did or failed to do, one can say that at the time, most Dutch Jews felt the same.

Frederiks had nothing against the Jews; he just wanted no trouble with the Germans. Only the queen and the government in exile in London could have counteracted the division created by the Germans between Dutch Jews and Dutch Gentiles. One word from London to the Jews would have made all the difference in the timing of the start of resistance activities.

The delay was cunningly exploited by the Germans to spread a definite fear. It was made clear that being sent to Mauthausen meant death. Some weeks after the 400 young men had been deported there in February 1941, their families received notices that they had died from illness or killed while attempting escape. Thereafter, Jews who disobeyed the decrees were sent to Mauthausen.

As no sane person could have imagined the gas chambers, it was believed that in the work camps one stood a chance of survival. But the Jews also believed, until deportation had actually begun, that the Dutch authorities would not let them be deported. Only after deportation had become fact did some of them decide to do something about it. Then the small resistance groups and individuals went into action as described here.

It is no coincidence that many Jews in the resistance were members of the Hechalutz movement. Their Jewish consciousness was stronger, and they realized earlier that the Jews should resist obedience.

From July 1942 on, the underground succeeded in hiding 25,000 persons. Their achievement gives an indication of what could have been achieved earlier.

By July 1942, the trap was already closed. Crossing the border to Belgium was much easier during the first and even second year of the occupation.

At the time of the invasion into May 1940, Holland was home to 140,000 Jews, about 1.6 per cent of the population. Of these, 105,000 were killed. Many could have been saved but for the tragic belief that Jews can become part of another people.

This is the second of two articles.

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Dun & Bradstreet says most of the leading industries lost ground in 1982 Total sales down 4%, exports off 5%

By MACABEE DEAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The country's 100 leading industrial companies had a bad year in 1982, both in total sales and in exports, according to figures compiled by Dun & Bradstreet (Israel).

Ilan Sachs, managing director of the prestigious American credit information firm, said total sales of these 100 "giants" fell by four per cent in the 1982 calendar year, to stand at IS169.3 billion, while exports dropped by five per cent in real terms, to stand at \$2,226. (The dollar drop was really only about one per cent in nominal figures, but since the dollar fell in value 3.9 per cent last year, the actual drop was five per cent.)

Sachs noted that the fall in exports would have been considerably worse, had there not been a real growth in the export of electrical and electronic items of 20 per cent, which offset somewhat the falls in other categories. These categories included chemicals and minerals, which fell by ten per cent in real terms, textiles, down by eight per cent, and paper and wood products, down by 11 per cent.

Two companies, Seitec and Danot-Rosenzweig, exported more than 99 per cent of their production. Seitec exported \$50.2 million worth of goods and the other company, which makes jewelry, \$22m.

Exports constituted 31.8 per cent of all sales of the 100 largest companies in 1982, compared to 39 per cent in 1981.

Although Israel Aircraft continued to be the leading Israeli company, with total sales of IS17,472m. (including \$383m. in exports), its sales were only 86 per cent of the previous year. However, all 100 companies increased their sales by only 123 per cent, which is less than the index, which rose by 131.5 per cent.

The other nine leading companies (listed according to rank) were Tadiran, with sales of IS9,258m., and exports of \$174m.; Touva, with sales of IS8,161m. and exports of \$5m.

(Touva was in fourth place last year.)

Oil Refineries had sales of IS6,054m. and exports of \$66.7m. (oil refineries was in third place last year). Dead Sea Works, which remained in fifth place this year, with sales of IS5,668m., and exports of \$195m.

Negev Phosphates rose from ninth place last year to sixth this year, with total sales of IS4,610m., and exports of \$143.2m.

Nesher-Israel Cement, in seventh place this year — sixth last year — had total sales of IS3,786m., with no exports.

Polgat was in eighth place (seventh last year), with total sales of IS3,478m., and exports of \$75m.

Companies which exported more than \$50m. in 1982:

Israel Aircraft, \$383m.; Dead Sea Works, \$195m.; Tadiran, \$174m.; Negev Phosphates, \$143m.; Elscint, \$97m.; Polgat, \$87m.; Oil Refineries, \$66.7m.; Soltam, \$67.4m.; Hifa Chemicals, \$63.5m.; Gedot, \$63m.; Makhteshim, \$53m.; Seitec, \$50m.

Automotive Equipment rose to ninth place from eighth last year. It had total sales of IS3,310m., with exports of \$7.2m. Finally, Soltam, which was the tenth largest company — it was only 16th last year — had total sales of IS3,292m., with exports of \$67.4m.

Commenting on the results of the entire 100, Sachs admitted that the last two on the list, and perhaps the last three, might have been pushed out, if three companies — all newspapers — had agreed to give their figures. (There is no Audit Bureau of Circulations in Israel, and the leading newspapers, with the exception of The Jerusalem Post, refuse to reveal figures on their circulation, sales, etc.) The two newspapers "which definitely would have been included in the list of 100 are Yediot Aharonot and Ma'ariv — and Ha'aretz might have made the list," Sachs said.

The 100 companies listed employed 120,183 workers in 1982, which constituted 41 per cent of all industrial workers. However, despite falling sales in 1982, the number of workers among these 100 companies increased from 117,866. The largest employer was Israel Aircraft, with 20,000 workers.

In other fields — non-industrial — the Dun & Bradstreet list shows that Bank Leumi continued to be the leading bank (at least as far as assets are concerned), with assets of IS787b. It is followed by Bank Hapoalim, with assets of IS749b., with Discount coming in third with IS390b.

It should be noted that the assets of the Union Bank are included in those of Leumi, while those of American-Israel and Israel Continental are included in those of Hapoalim, and Barclays Discount with those of Discount.

All three banks held the same relative position in 1981, as did the two other banks which are ranked number four and five. Mizrahi had assets of IS146.5b., and First International had assets of IS64.8b.

As for mortgage banks, Tefahot was the largest, with total assets of IS33b., followed by the Israel Development and Mortgage (Discount group), with assets of IS21.2b. Leumi Mortgage was in third place, with IS20.3b., and Mishkan (Hapoalim group), in fourth place, with IS18.2b.

(In 1981, Leumi Mortgage was in second place and not Israel Development and Mortgage.)

Among insurance companies, the three largest (based on premium income and excluding fees) were: Hassneh, IS7b., followed by Migdal, with IS2.5b., with Phoenix in third place with IS2b. (Note: Migdal is only one third the size of Hassneh.)

Among transportation companies, Zim had sales of IS17.7b., followed by El Al, with IS8.6b., with Egged being third, with IS4.4b.

Hotel chains are listed according to the number of rooms, with no other figures given, except for employees. The Shiff chain, with



Ilan Sachs

seven hotels, had a total of 1,700 rooms, followed by the Dan chain (also with seven hotels) with 1,590 rooms, with the Basel group, with 1,078 rooms (in six hotels, being in third place).

There are two Hilton hotels in Israel, with a total of 1,037 rooms, and six Israel Resort Hotels with 825 rooms. (The latter chain is run by the Israel Land Development Company.)

Star Polishing was the largest diamond exporter, with exports of \$82m. in 1982, followed by Moshe Schnitzer, with exports of \$33m.

OTZMA. — The Otzma provident fund (Leumi group), now celebrating its 25th anniversary, has 420,000 members who have saved a total of IS70 billion. To celebrate its anniversary, Otzma will give a present to its first 2,000 subscribers.

Electronic industry gives \$600,000 for lecturers

TEL AVIV. — Six electronic companies yesterday agreed to set up a fund of \$600,000 "to encourage the employment of lecturers in electronics at institutions of higher education as well as to give financial support to those already employed."

Eli Laniado, spokesman of the Manufacturers Association, said the decision was taken following statements by these institutions that it was hard to find such lecturers willing to work for low salaries, when they can make much more in industry. Moreover, the growth of the electronic industry in Israel indicates that a grave shortage of trained personnel will develop in a few years.

The five companies are Elron, Tadiran, Motorola, Rafael, E.A.L. and Israel Aircraft Industries.

SDE BOKER. — The adhesive tape plant of Kibbutz Sde Boker, recently set up with an investment of \$3.5 million, expects its production to reach IS3m. a year, in three years, about two-thirds going for export.

U.S. carmakers may show record profits

DETROIT (Reuters) — Americans, putting fears of petrol shortages behind them, are starting to buy big cars again and the trend could mean the biggest profits ever for U.S. carmakers.

The nation's three largest manufacturers, General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, are making a startling turnaround from deep recession and may earn nearly \$5.5 billion this year.

Last year's total sales of 5.76 million U.S.-built cars were the lowest

Grocers 'trapped' into price gouging by lack of information

By AARON SITTNER

Innocent grocers are being unfairly accused and convicted of price gouging, the Jerusalem Merchants Association charged yesterday. As a result, these food vendors not only pay heavy fines but also lose the trust of their customers.

"The root of the trouble is the refusal of the Ministry of Industry and Trade to distribute its official list of maximum retail prices, which is updated about once a month," association secretary Avraham Birnbaum told The Jerusalem Post. "Instead, the ministry publishes the price changes for the 200 or so subsidized items as advertisements in the newspapers."

"Generally, grocers just do not read newspapers intensively, let alone the adverts inserted by

various government agencies. Therefore, if they occasionally err and charge a few extra agorot on an article, it certainly should not subject them to being hauled into court."

Birnbaum showed The Post the latest price poster issued by the ministry and said the one preceding it was that of April 1982. In between that time no monthly posters were issued. The ministry's consumer price division claims it does not have the funds to print and distribute a fresh list each month, following the adjustments of the maximum prices.

"Instead of protecting the public in the proper way, the ministry traps innocent merchants and then makes a big hullabaloo in the papers when a judge hands down a stiff penalty," he said.

\$ slumps, gold up as lower interest rates seen

LONDON (AP). — The U.S. dollar slumped against major currencies yesterday on widespread expectations of lower interest rates soon. Gold jumped \$5 an ounce.

Testimony by Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker to a Congressional Committee on future U.S. monetary policy came too late to have much influence on European trading.

But confirmation that the Fed was raising its growth targets for the narrow definition of money in circulation known as M1, covering mainly cash and checking accounts, was seen as implying lower interest rates soon.

Gold closed in London at a bid \$428 a troy ounce up from \$423.25 Tuesday. In Zurich the metal closed at \$428.50 bid, compared with \$423.75 the day before.

Earlier in Hongkong, gold rose \$2.01, to \$426.17 bid. Silver finished at \$12.425 bid, from \$12.165 Tuesday.

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Netanya: Laniado (obstetrics, internal, pediatrics, gynecology). Migdal: LaPach: Open line 4-6 p.m. every Monday answers on obstetrics, gynecological, venereal, sexual functioning and family planning problems. Tel. 02-633155.

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DOWN 1 Prize 2 Zodiac sign 3 Skilled fighter 4 Medical man 5 Nursemaid 6 Childish 7 Furious 11 Call to mind 12 Temporary expedient (4-3) 15 Unbiased 16 Mate 18 Swimming stroke 19 Pope's triple crown 22 Silent

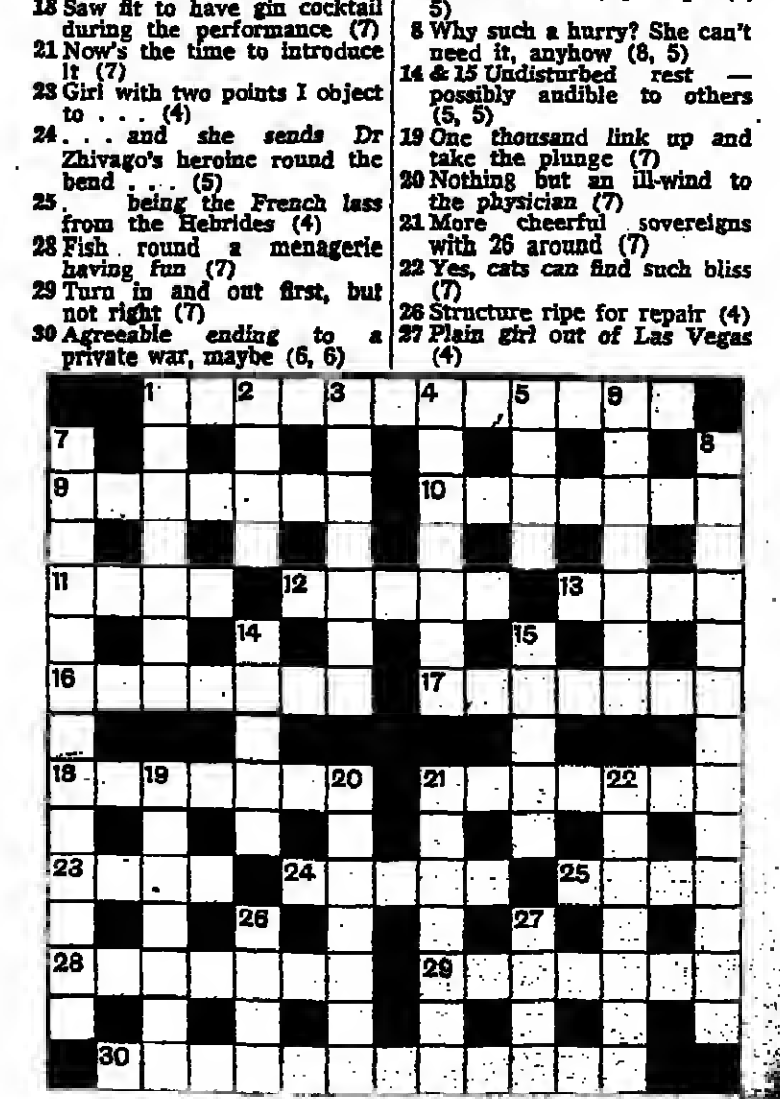


ONE-AND-ONE CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Hardly the way to describe the role of Quasimodo (8, 4) 9 Topping head-dress for a fairy? (7) 10 Turner's attachment to ex-plate away (4-5) 11, 12 & 13 Defect that married a minstrel's playing? (4, 2, 3, 4) 16 The workers' organization is touchy producing this fabric (7) 17 Free of duty (7) 18 Saw fit to have gin cocktail during the performance (7) 21 Now's the time to introduce it (7) 23 Girl with two points I object to... (4) 24... and she sends Dr Zhivago's heroine round the bend... (5) 25... being the French less from the Hebrews (4) 28 Fish round a menagerie having fun (7) 29 Turn in and out first, but not right (7) 30 Agreeable ending to a private war, maybe (6, 6)

DOWN 1 One of the Services sets out and attacks (7) 2 Has words of a sort after losing the key (4) 3 Her naive appearance could be genuine (7) 4 Receive news about the girl (7) 5 Enclosure anything but colourful (4) 6 22, say, transported on the Yorkshire river (7) 7 A rum answer, perhaps (8, 5) 8 Why such a hurry? She can't need it, anyhow (8, 5) 14 & 15 Undisturbed rest — possibly audible to others (5, 5) 19 One thousand link up and take the plunge (7) 20 Nothing but an ill-wind to the physician (7) 22 More cheerful sovereigns with 26 around (7) 23 Yes, cats can find such bliss (7) 26 Structure ripe for repair (4) 27 Plain girl out of Las Vegas (4)

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Ari Rath
Editor and
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THE JERUSALEM
POST

Erwin Frenkel
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Menahem Av 11, 5743 • Shawwal 11, 1403

The Druse dilemma

THE CABINET sitting as the ministerial defence committee, yesterday unanimously approved the general staff's proposals for the IDF's redeployment in Lebanon. No substantive details were available. But the main contours of an Israeli redeployment had already been revealed, or rather confirmed, by the chief of staff, Rav Aluf Moshe Levy, on television last week.

While the end goal is a complete Israeli withdrawal, as part of the pullout of all foreign forces from Lebanon, the redeployment itself would be along the Awali River, north of Sidon. This means that the IDF would first of all be evacuating the Shouf mountains.

The general staff must be well aware that, in present circumstances, this is a calculated risk for Israel. A hotbed of intense sectarian strife between the Christian and Druse community, the Shouf area could become a power vacuum once Israel withdraws from it. And nobody can be sure how this vacuum will be filled.

Israel's apparent hope is that the Lebanese army, aided by the multinational force, will take over the area, helping to keep the communal peace and barring entry to the Syrians and the PLO. But this is only one of several possible scenarios.

The possibility cannot be ruled out that the Christians, resurgent in the Shouf since Israel's occupation last summer, will gain the upper hand, and that the result could be a Druse bloodbath. That, for Israel, could have disastrous repercussions among its own Druse community. At a press conference on Tuesday Israeli Druse representatives served notice that the blood-bond their people had forged with the Jewish state would be seriously threatened by the massacre of their brethren in Lebanon in the wake of an Israeli pullback.

In fact Israel has in the past several months been careful not to leave the Druse in the Shouf defenceless — much to the chagrin of the Christian Phalanges. This has meant, apart from allowing the Druse to arm themselves, an apparent abandonment of the earlier Israeli policy, which was to favour the conservative Arslan clan over the predominantly pro-Syrian "progressive" party of Walid Jumblatt. For the Arslanis are much less able than the Jumblatts to protect the Druse in the Shouf after the Israeli soldiers leave the area.

The Jumblatts have in effect been permitted to regain their former ascendancy. But this plainly increases the chances of a Syrian, and even a PLO, return to the area that Israel is about to evacuate.

Cairo chills the peace

FROM ISRAEL'S viewpoint, the agreement to exchange ambassadors is one of the key features of the four-year-old Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. The claim has even been made that the unilateral recall of its ambassador by one party is tantamount to a breach of the treaty. Whether it is or is not would, however, depend on the length of the ambassador's absence from the host country.

If the absence takes on the character of permanence, a claim of violation may legitimately be made.

These observations are plainly relevant to the case of the Egyptian ambassador, missing from Tel Aviv since last September. The envoy, Sa'ad Mortada, was summoned home after Sa'ad's assassination, as a way of expressing his government's feeling that Israel should be held responsible for the massacres.

Mr. Mortada's recall was aimed less at Israel than at the Arab world. Egypt was simply dissociating itself from the Jewish state with which it had made its peace but under whose aegis Arabs had been brutally killed, even though by other Arabs. Scrapping the entire treaty, or even suspending diplomatic relations, would have been excessive. But the recall of the ambassador "for consultations" was apparently deemed sufficient as symbolic protest.

The Egyptian gesture was met with an official Israeli remonstrance, but unofficially it was treated with understanding: Egypt had to do something to cover its embarrassment. The hope was, however, expressed that Ambassador Mortada's absence would be short. The envoy himself appeared certain that he would soon be back at his post.

In this he was mistaken. President Mubarak's government must have decided to make of the missing ambassador an emblem of what the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Butros Ghali, termed "the cold peace" with Israel — and a centerpiece in a show of reconciliation with the sisterly Arab states. The immediate cause of the recall, Sabra and Shatilla, no longer mattered: what mattered was that Israel did not conduct itself, in and out of Lebanon, according to the prescribed Egyptian code of proper behaviour.

But how long could Egypt go on staging this act of diplomatic boycott without dangerously straining relations with Israel?

On this point there seems to have been some difference of opinion in Cairo. Late last month a spokesman of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry announced that a new ambassador, a successor to Mr. Mortada, who was retiring from the diplomatic service, would soon be appointed. It was Egypt's position that normal ambassadorial relations could be renewed, once a timetable for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon had been set, and the Israeli-Lebanese agreement had met that condition.

Two days ago, however, that statement had been dismissed by Dr. Ghali as having been in error. Egypt would not have an ambassador in Israel, he said, until Israel actually withdrew from Lebanon, abandoned its "aggressive policies" and contributed to a "new political atmosphere" in the Middle East.

If this is Egypt's authoritative position, it bodes a de-normalization in relations with Israel, and it is nothing less than a violation of the peace treaty.

Making the Knesset more efficient

By SHEVAH WEISS

THE TENTH Knesset is about to end half its term, which I suppose is as good a time as any to take stock again. It is a well known fact that in most democratic parliaments it is the committees which get most of the parliamentary work done rather than the plenary. Some parliaments have general purpose committees which do not specialize in any particular subject, others — such as our own — have standing committees whose topics of concern are clearly defined and frequently extremely specialized.

I do not intend to deal with all aspects of committee work in this short article, though certainly the quality of the auxiliary services at their disposal should be discussed, or the problems of "absenteeism," or the question of whether the decisions or recommendations of the committees are indeed implemented and who is responsible to ensure they are.

I prefer now to deal with the structure of the committees. The Basic Law — The Knesset lays

down that "the Knesset will choose from amongst its members standing committees and it is also allowed to choose from amongst its members committees to deal with specific issues. The roles of the committees, their powers and their work procedures, in so far as they have not been laid down in the law, will be determined in the Regulations." Thus, most changes one might wish to introduce into the structure and work of the committees would not necessitate legislation but merely a change in the regulations.

The Knesset Regulations first laid down that there would be nine committees. This number was raised to 10 in the course of the Ninth Knesset. The regulations also laid down the distribution of issues amongst the committees. It corresponds more to the activities of the ministries than to a logical distribution of tasks though, due to a compromise, each Knesset House committee is neither unequivocally attached to a specific ministry nor to a rational definition of a subject.

TO A LARGE extent the issues dealt with by each committee today derive from custom, which took root in accordance with the axiom: "each incident leads to a precedent."

In the first to third Knessets, seven of the nine committees had 15 members while the Knesset Committee and the Committee on the Constitution, Law and Justice each had 23. As of the Fourth Knesset, the number of members in all the committees was set at 19. The Ninth Knesset once again changed the number of members, but left an equal number of members in each committee. This mechanical equality undoubtedly resulted from various considerations. Not the least consideration was to enable a satisfactory distribution of seats in the committees amongst the various parties. The most important consideration — a proper functioning of the committees — should have been decisive but wasn't.

The functions of the committees were determined by the Knesset Regulations and in various laws. The standing committees have four types of task: a) Discussion of bills in the stage between the first and second reading, and, in the case of a private member's bill, a discussion of the bill between its acceptance for debate by the Knesset and the first reading; b) Discussion of regulations after they have been introduced; c) Discussion of requests by citizens presented directly to the Knesset, or through the government, and which the Knesset plenary passed on to one of its standing committees; d) Discussion of any other matter passed on to a committee by the Knesset, even if, according to law, regulations and custom, this transfer to a committee seems to deviate from the accepted rules of the game.

By all possible criteria — whether they are based on work-load or on

Number of Meetings of each of the Standing Committees in the 9th Knesset and in the first two years of the 10th.

Name of Committee	No. of meetings in 9th Knesset (four years)	No. of meetings in 10th Knesset (until 1.7.83)
Finance	508	320
Labour and Welfare	463	199
Education and Culture	360	206
Foreign Affairs and Security	358	182
Interior and Environment	266	247
Knesset	334	151
Constitution, Law and Justice	293	127
Economics	273	126
Aliya and Absorption	238	92
State Control (established in the middle of the 9th Knesset)	126	135
	3,219	1,785

(The list does not include meetings of sub-committees.)

THE POLITICAL situation in the Middle East now is not much better than it was before the October War of 1973.

On one hand, Israel has achieved its goal of living in peace in the area only partially by signing the Camp David Accords with Egypt in 1978, and lately by concluding a treaty with Lebanon, which the Lebanese government had little choice but to accept and ratify.

Yet the PLO, as Israel well knows, has not been exterminated by the Peace for Galilee campaign and could still menace Israel militarily and psychologically if radical members of the organization take the lead in suicidal raids against Israeli targets.

Besides, Syria, heavily armed as it is, is still in a state of war with Israel, and the possibility of renewed bloodshed between Syria and Israel still looms in a nerve-racking manner.

On the other hand, the Arab countries have fared no better than Israel since the Yom Kippur War; the Golan Heights, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip are still occupied by Israel; the Palestinian problem is

far from being solved, and the despairing no-war, no-peace atmosphere is presently matching its sister that prevailed before October 6, 1973.

Yet, the solution to the problems of the Middle East does not fall under the category of the impossible. In fact, if moderation, wisdom and far-sightedness are demonstrated by both Israel and the Arabs, hostilities could easily be eliminated.

THE ARAB governments which are still hostile to Israel cannot fly in the face of certain new realities which have developed over the past years: Egypt has made peace with Israel and Israel's southern borders are now secure. Lebanon, too, has been neutralized following the departure of the Palestinian fighters and, particularly, after Israel and Lebanon have concluded a treaty.

Moreover, the two remaining confrontation states — Jordan and Syria — do not have sufficient military strength to wage a successful war against Israel.

Thus, in the light of these new realities, Arab regimes should rather develop a new political strategy as well as a modified attitude towards the Jewish state so that they can corner Israel and put it on the defensive diplomatically.

DESPITE THE FACT that Israel is at present stronger militarily than the Arab countries, and that it still controls certain Arab territories, the Arabs do hold many valuable cards.

Thus, negotiations would be a matter of real, tangible exchanges between the Israelis and the Arabs in order to satisfy the needs and rights

Dry Bones

IF REAGAN HAD CANCELLED THE VISIT, THE OPPOSITION WOULD HAVE SAID THAT

BEGIN HAD SOMEHOW BLUNDERED!

BUT NOW THAT BEGIN DID THE CANCELLING THEY SAY THAT

BEGIN HAS SOMEHOW BLUNDERED!

ONE THING YOU'VE GOT TO ADMIT ABOUT THE OPPOSITION.

THEIR POLITICAL STATEMENTS HAVE A CERTAIN CONSISTENCY!

the number of its meetings — The Finance Committee is by far the busiest, while the committee with the smallest work load is the Aliya and Absorption Committee. (This reflects accurately aliya in the past two years.)

THERE ARE several ways in which the work of the committees would be made more efficient. One would be for each committee to have 10-25 members depending on its workload. Furthermore, the larger and busier committees could be subdivided into permanent sub-committees, as is the practice in the Finance Committee of the U.S. Congress. These subdivisions should be made in accordance with a logical division of tasks corresponding to how the system functions, and to ensure a certain equality in work-load.

Further, I believe that the Knesset Committee should be abolished, and all its functions

handed over to the Knesset President, whose status would be enhanced.

I believe that the main difficulty in implementing the sort of changes I have in mind would be political rather than organizational, and involve a redistribution of committee chairmanships and membership amongst the parties. However, this inconvenience would certainly pay off in terms of efficiency. If one could ensure also that the committees would have more sophisticated means of obtaining information independently, that all members of Knesset would share equally the burden of service, and if, in addition, a mechanism could be found for ensuring that committee decisions were actually implemented, then the Knesset's productivity would undoubtedly rise to an un-usual extent.

The writer is a Labour Party MP and Professor of Political Science at HAifa University.

Prospects for peace

By ABDEL KARIM AL-SHARIF

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Thus, negotiations would be a matter of real, tangible exchanges between the Israelis and the Arabs in order to satisfy the needs and rights

of both sides. The Arab countries should take two steps:

Firstly they should convey the message that Israel cannot last forever in a continuous state of war with its neighbours; and secondly, they should convince international and Israeli public opinion by means of diplomatic campaigns that the Arabs would be ready to recognize Israel as a *de facto* political entity provided Israel displays moderation and far-sightedness in three basic respects:

□ Israel must rectify its Zionist tenets and abandon its racist nationalism by recognizing and granting the Palestinian Arabs their rights to self-determination as well as having a national homeland. Furthermore, Israel must agree to the repatriation of the Arab refugees who fled in 1948 by incorporating them into Israeli society and granting them full civil and political rights;

□ Israel should alter its image as a militaristic, expansionist Sparta by agreeing to advance to withdrawing its forces from the occupied territories since it is against international law to annex the land of other countries by force;

□ Israel should agree to dismantle

its settlements that exist in the occupied territories in return for financial compensation to be paid by the Arab Gulf states.

BY AGREEING in principle to fulfil these conditions, Israel would be showing genuine interest in a long-term peace with the Arabs, and would be gaining the following dividends:

Firstly, the Arab masses would finally openly accept Israel's existence in the Middle East; Syria and the other Arab countries would extend full diplomatic, cultural and trade relations with Israel.

Secondly, the Golan Heights would be either totally or partially demilitarized and supervised by UN, or multi-national forces to guarantee the safety of Israel's northern borders.

Thirdly, Israel would be living next to a peaceful, free, independent, quasi-neutral Palestinian state governed by a multi-party system, confederated with Jordan, having only token forces, and its boundaries would be supervised by U.N. forces.

Finally, a unified Jerusalem could be either internationalized or left as an open city, run by a council of Arab and Jewish mayors.

Thus, Israel's right to survival, peace and security, and the Arabs' rights to regain their lost territories and to self-determination would be met. Peace would finally prevail, and chances for future upheavals would be minimal.

The writer, who lives in East Jerusalem, has a BA in political science from Georgia College, Georgia.

READERS' LETTERS

REFORM MOVEMENT

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — I refer to Rabbi Richard Hirsch's article of July 3rd — "Rights and Duties." What do the following facts concerning American Reform Jewry suggest about the credibility of the Rabbi's claim that the Reform Movement has provided a "positive Jewish identity" for Jews in the Western World: a 50 per cent intermarriage rate, a 30 per cent divorce rate, one of the lowest birth rates of any group in America, soaring assimilation, and children raised completely ignorant of classical Jewish learning?

Why are there so few fourth-generation Reform Jews? Why does more than half the aliya to the Jewish homeland now come from the ranks of the Orthodox, who comprise such a small fraction of total world Jewry? Why has Reform Judaism contributed so little of en-

during value to our 3000 year old Jewish tradition?

Rather than criticize the Orthodox, who are establishing thriving communities of Torah-centred families in Israel and abroad, Rabbi Hirsch ought to look into his own backyard, where the horrifying record of the Reform Movement's "creative response to modernity" speaks for itself: the eradication through assimilation of a huge portion of world Jewry. Those of us who really care about and fear for the survival of the Jewish people must demand an immediate explanation from Rabbi Hirsch and his colleagues for the disaster that the Reform Movement, through its abandonment of Torah life, has brought upon Judaism.

MENACHEM KORN
Jerusalem

IDF EXHIBITION

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — Could someone please explain the logic involved in a country which is in serious financial difficulty spending so much money on a military fair?

What is the point of exhibiting equipment which nearly every citizen sees anyway when he/she does his/her military service?

Tel Aviv. JUDY KUPFERMAN

PENFRIENDS

ODDYVAR HUSETH (37), of 5470 Rosendal, Norway, is a teacher who would like to correspond with Israelis in order to exchange stamps.

JOHANNA SAMUEL KITICK (23), of 3/Satanim, L.B.S. Marg, Opp. Sheetal, Kurla, Bombay 400070, India, is Jewish and would like to have Israeli penfriends. Her hobbies are reading and collecting stamps.

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Democracy and Political Culture in Israel

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